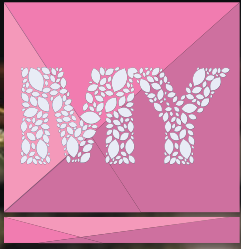


LIFESTYLE ■ BUSINESS ■ TOURISM



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MAGAZINE

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MEG HARRELL

A NURSE'S SUCCESS
IN DISRUPTING THE
HEALTHCARE
FIELD

SPRING DINING

al fresco in Historic
Downtown Sanford

TOURISM

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Carly McLendon (left), general manager and Robbie Kennerney, owner



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Perla and her husband Benny celebrating 17 years of marriage.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Every year we love publishing our wedding guide in *My Sanford Seminole Magazine*. We enjoy promoting love and inspiration by sharing stories of couples who have been married for many years and articles providing good advice for brides planning their big day!

Love is highlighted in many ways in this edition. Love for our community and for those who continue promoting and making Sanford and Seminole County an incredible place to be.

In this special edition of Food & Drink, Leon wants to know... Why Limit "Happy" to Just One Hour? And where to dine al fresco in Downtown Sanford. Brandy delights and educates us about tourism in Sanford and Seminole County, and Daniella shares an inspirational story about a dedicated and passionate nurse named Meg Harrell who is an expert in her field.

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Save the date for the BEST OF SANFORD 2024 GALA AWARDS, which will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at The Ritz Theater/ Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in Downtown Sanford!

Stay tuned!

Love,

WRITE TO US | ESCRÍBENOS A
EDITOR@MYSANFORDMAGAZINE.COM

Perla is the founder, Editor In-Chief and publisher of My Sanford Seminole Magazine. Her goal was to produce a local magazine that would foster unity and promote good will in Sanford's culturally diverse community. This was accomplished and the magazine has been declared a resounding success. Perla also conceived and brought to fruition the Sanford Tourism Office and serves as its first Chairperson. Proceeding her long career as a Diplomat in Rome, Italy, she served as the Director General of Tourism in Italy where she also founded a successful tourist and business magazine.



ON THE COVER

Meg Harrell.

Photo:
Daniella Hume,
Mastropieces Productions

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EMPOWERING NURSES THROUGH EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

BY DANIELLA HUME

Hundreds of thousands on social media follow Meg Harrell for practical nursing tips, but this Sanford nurse-turned-instructor had difficulty first diving into the medical field.

"I struggled in the beginning with nursing school and to find my bearings as a new nurse," she said.

But instead of giving up, she would make that struggle in nursing school her drive to help others wanting to become, grow, and thrive as a nurse.

Raised in Miami, Meg's fascination with healthcare began at an early age. Her father was a nurse and ignited a passion within her, leading her to pursue a career in nursing.

"For the first couple of years, I took notes to ensure that no one ever felt rejected as a new nurse," she said. "I planned to train new nurses one day so they wouldn't have to struggle like I once did."

Once she became a nurse, it didn't take long for her to start training others. Two years in, her work gained enough recognition to help Florida Hospital in Orange City create a new grad training program.

Over the years, Meg gained extensive experience working in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, assisted living facilities, and rehabilitation centers. Her experience at Florida Hospital and Baptist Hospital further honed her skills and deepened her understanding of the profession.

Meg Harrell

Meg's passion for teaching other nurses hit a new challenge when COVID-19 hit. Day in and day out, hundreds of nurses would leave the bedside setting for a different career path. She saw a shortage of experienced nurses and an influx of new nurses who lacked sufficient training. "I got terrified for the profession as a whole," she told us. "I thought, 'Wow, an entire generation of nurses might be lost. We might lose public trust, discouraging people from pursuing a nursing career.' So that is when I got my inspiration to do something."

Meg became determined to bridge the gap and ensure the continuity of quality care. At first, she started to tutor nurses during her lunch break at the hospital. That grew into her creating nursegrn.com, a platform offering free resources, online courses, and personalized tutoring to nurses preparing for licensing exams. On social media, like TikTok, where she has well over a half-million followers. She offers free tools, information, and tutoring to help nurses pass their exams and build a strong foundation in the nursing profession.

Recognizing the unique needs of each individual, she provides not only comprehensive study materials but also test-taking strategies, breathing exercises, and other holistic techniques to alleviate anxiety and boost confidence. Her focus on filling in the missing puzzle pieces ensures that nurses not only pass their exams but also develop a solid foundation to excel in their careers.

"I offer training to nurses who feel that they lack sufficient training or a strong foundation from the hospital," Meg said. "By receiving training from me, they can acquire a solid foundation, which in turn will trickle down to other nurses they work with and train."

What began as a passionate project has now evolved into a thriving business. Meg recently expanded her team, hiring two nurses to assist with tutoring and scheduling. She also hires other nurses throughout the year to enhance the quality of test prep questions and further refine the student guide. With her virtual courses,



Meg and her husband Alex

videos, and personalized support, Meg continues to impact the nursing community, equipping future nurses with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their profession.

Meg spent many years on the go, including some living with her husband, Alex, and two kids, Daisy and Walter, in a renovated RV. In 2020, she decided to put some roots in Sanford, Florida, and fell in love with the city after an unexpected encounter. While on their way to the downtown area, her son urgently

needed to use the bathroom, and they pulled over at an open house. They instantly fell in love with the home and Sanford, leading them to move there two weeks later.

"You never know what life has in store for you," she says. "I just love everything about Sanford: I love the location, how quiet my neighborhood is, walking to the water every day, the historic homes, the growth that I have seen, and the direction our city is going in."

This year, Meg plans to travel the country to speak at different nursing schools and events. Her unwavering dedication to empowering new nurses is shaping the future of healthcare by ensuring a well-prepared and confident nursing workforce. ■



Daniella Hume, the owner of Mastropieces Productions, is a versatile creative professional specializing in writing, photography, digital media production, social media management, and video creation. With a deep passion for her community, Daniella's work aims to inspire and

uplift her audience while celebrating the beauty and vibrancy of the people and places around her. Her published work can be found throughout Central Florida and beyond, showcasing her commitment to the Sunshine State and dedication to sharing a positive message.





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SPRING DINING *Al Fresco* in Historic Downtown Sanford

BY LEON KONIECZNY



The Yardery



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Historic Downtown Sanford is Central Florida's premier location for dining outside (al fresco) year-round, but our gorgeous spring weather makes spring decidedly the best time of year for eating outside. All of Downtown Sanford's restaurants and bars have outdoor seating of some sort putting many of Sanford's advantages to their best use:

- We have wide sidewalks with plenty of space for a few or even many tables.
- We have no busy highways cutting through downtown bringing heavy traffic and noise.
- Many establishments have umbrellas to protect from the sun, heaters to take the

chill off of the night air, and fans to bring cooling comfort during warm afternoons.

- Some have a designated area or side yard for additional outdoor seating, often covered or shaded.
- We have dozens of restaurants and bars within a 3–5-block radius of the center of Historic Downtown Sanford, with plenty to choose from for any taste or occasion.
- We have plenty of free parking surrounding the downtown area, plus daily transportation to/from the SunRail Station.

What is not to like about all the opportunities for al fresco dining that Historic Downtown Sanford has, especially in springtime?

While almost every establishment has tables on the sidewalks—and they are often filled, especially on the weekend—there are some establishments that also have their own dedicated outdoor space offering a variety of experiences no matter what the weather. Some of those spaces have other amenities like shade and fans. All of the downtown restaurants and bars make great use of the city sidewalks in front, allowing many opportunities to dine al fresco. Check them all out, you won't be disappointed.** At this

time of year, it's a great opportunity to enjoy our prime weather while dining al fresco. ■

***Please note: reservations are advised at most fine-dining restaurants, especially on a weekend. Do not forget to call ahead so you are not disappointed.*



Leon Konieczny is a local Central Florida foodie and food blogger who's been writing about Sanford and Seminole County area "good eats" restaurants for the past twelve years. He's big into eating at local mom 'n' pop shops where high-quality ingredients, love, and a dose of home cooking make all the difference. While he occasionally eats at the big chains, he claims it's only to remind him where a real quality dining experience lurks – in the small restaurants which are the heart and soul of every neighborhood and community.

COURTESY THE YARDERY (TOP); SANFORD BREWING COMPANY (RIGHT); ST. JOHN'S STEAK & SEAFOOD (BOTTOM LEFT); COURTESY LEON KONIECZNY (BOTTOM RIGHT)



St. John's River
Steak & Seafood

Why Limit “Happy” to Only One Hour?

BY LEON KONIECZNY



The Old Jailhouse

I would like to posit this suggestion: in Downtown Sanford (DTS), it is always happy hour. Why? Because Sanford’s eating and drinking establishments are fun places. They are all small, locally owned mom-and-pop shops where “service with a smile” is always the rule of the day. People who live, work, eat, or drink in Sanford will tell you that it is indeed a very friendly city, all of the time.

Still, many local restaurants and bars do have a special “happy hour” with reduced or special prices on food and/or beverages, a means to entice you to visit them at their less busy times. Generally, but not always, happy hour is limited to the late afternoon. Almost every bar or restaurant has a happy hour, but the hours and days can vary. This article will cover just a few of them, listed in no particular order.

One of my favorite happy hours is at **The Old Jailhouse**, Tuesday through Friday from 4–6 pm. Besides inexpensive house wines and well-drinks, they have special prices on their

tap beer and a nice complement of craft cocktails. On top of that, they usually have a special price on at least one appetizer, and a specialty food item as well. Check ahead, the specials can change, but they always delight.

Another fine happy hour is at **Buster’s European Beer Hall** (aka Buster’s Bistro), which recently expanded their hours and now are open for lunch and dinner, and they have a daily happy hour from 3–6 pm with \$5 drink and \$5 food specials. Well drinks and house wines for \$5? How can you not be happy with that? Add to that some special menu items like the putine (IMHO a huge portion), roasted brussels sprouts (a favorite of mine), and tomato bisque, and you won’t go away hungry or broke.

Sanford Brewing Company has a daily happy hour, Monday through Friday from 3–6 pm, with drink and food specials, such as their crispy brussels sprouts, mac ‘n cheese bites,

and jumbo wings in one of their various house-made dipping sauces. They have special prices on house wine and draft house-brewed beer to match.

The Station Bar & Grub, which boasts a gazillion TVs with all your favorite live sports games, has a daily happy hour from Monday through Friday, 11 am to 7 pm with two-for-one wells, \$1 off craft draft beer, and other drink specials. On top of that they have a taco and margarita special on Tuesday, and buy one/get one wings on Thursday. What’s not to like about that? Eat, drink, be merry and watch some sports!



Buster’s Bistro

The District in Sanford has happy hour Tuesday through Thursday, 4–6:30 pm, with a special happy-hour menu in addition to drink specials. On the happy-hour menu, you’ll find items only available during happy hour, such as their sticky Asian or traditional hot wings and the Second Street Noodles (my favorite

and always enough to take home for the next day’s lunch).

There are a number of other great places that also offer happy hour such as **The Basin** located at **Henry’s Depot**, **The Imperial at Washburn Imports**, **St. John’s River Steak and Seafood**, and the newly opened **Capital Room**, to name just a few.

While you can always be happy at DTS’s great food and beverage locations, who doesn’t like to save a few pennies from time to time? I’ve only managed to cover a few places here, so feel free to explore and ask around. And if you have a favorite happy-hour place or special that you’d like me to check out and perhaps cover in a future article, feel free to send me an email at sanfordfoodie@gmail.com. I’m always interested in exploring new places in Downtown Sanford. ■

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LIFESTYLE

THE CLUBHOUSE AT MAYFAIR COUNTRY REBUILDING A CLASSIC

BY LISA HOLDER, MPA



CLUB



COURTESY CITY OF SANFORD FLORIDA

The City of Sanford is thrilled to announce that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new clubhouse at Mayfair Country Club, which took place on March 7 at 9:00 am at 3536 Country Club Rd. This momentous occasion heralded the revival of a cherished landmark steeped in history and tradition. We celebrated the vision, dedication, and collective effort that brought us to this pivotal juncture.

Originally established in 1922 and designed by the eminent golf-course architect Donald Ross, the City of Sanford Mayfair Golf Course has long been revered for its 18 holes of tournament-quality golf, putting green, and practice bunker. Nestled atop a gracious hill, the former Sanford Mayfair Clubhouse, with its rich heritage spanning almost 100 years, served as a testament to the area's storied past.

However, recognizing the need for revitalization, the City of Sanford embarked on an ambitious endeavor to reimagine and rebuild the clubhouse to meet the demands of modern times. The old structures, dating back to the 1920s, had surpassed their maintenance life and were demolished to make way for a new, state-of-the-art facility.

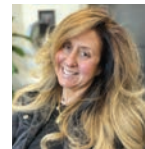
Dubbed "The Verandas," the conceptual design for the new clubhouse was designed in 2019 by Owen Christopher, Urban Designer for the City of Sanford. Embracing a spacious open-air concept, The Verandas will

offer breathtaking views of the golf course and create an inviting atmosphere for patrons to savor Florida's unique climate.

Led by the project management team at ZHA and with final architectural services provided by CPH Engineers, the construction of this project promises to be a resounding success. Boasting indoor square footage of 5,954 sq. ft., including a 2,030-sq. ft. banquet room/indoor-outdoor bar, a 788-sq. ft. fully functional kitchen, a 646-sq. ft. pro shop, 288 sq. ft. of restrooms, and a 1,296-sq. ft. covered veranda, the new clubhouse will undoubtedly rival the best in Central Florida.

Moreover, managed by Down to Earth, the clubhouse will offer a distinctive dining experience and serve as an exquisite venue for weddings, parties, and various events, catering to the diverse needs of the community.

Estimated construction cost is \$4.8 million. With the support of esteemed partners and the unwavering enthusiasm of the community, the City of Sanford looks forward to ushering in a new era of excellence at the Mayfair Country Club. ■



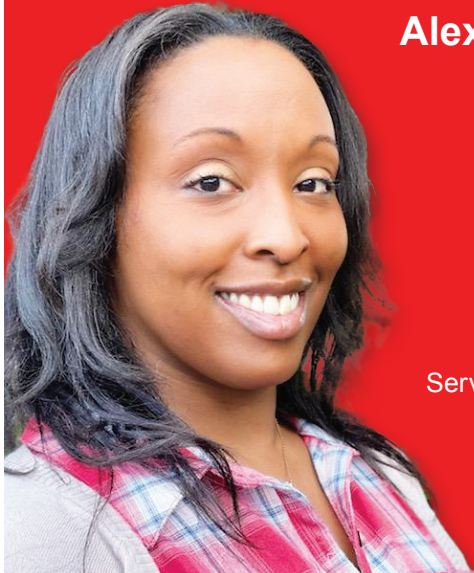
Lisa Holder is the Chief Communications & Cultural Affairs Administrator for the City of Sanford. Lisa is a Founding Board Member for the Florida League of Cities Municipal Communicators Association. She holds a Master of Public Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Communications, and is a Navy veteran.



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TOURISM IS BIG BUSINESS IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

BY BRANDY JO

The word is getting out about Seminole County. A recent visitor study shows that 2.2 million visitors stayed overnight in Seminole County in a one-year period. Even better, those visitors are spending money in our local businesses. The study showed that visitors generated an economic impact of \$1.2 billion, which helps employ 11,960 people in tourism-related roles in Seminole County.



Boombah Sports Complex



Wekiva Island

What's Luring Visitors Here

Christina Hollerbach is the CEO of Hollerbach's in downtown Sanford, and she sees firsthand the impact of tourism in Sanford. She said she feels people are attracted to the natural resources and the sincerity of the people in the area. Seminole County's Tourism and Economic Development Administrator, Gui Cunha, tells us that he attributes the county's tourism success to the abundance of outdoor leisure activities, the thriving food and beverage scene, and the major youth sporting events the county has been able to attract. He said he views their digital footprint



Cross Seminole Trail

as an important factor of their marketing. "We completely revamped our sports website recently—PlayOrlando-North.com. Our leisure website—DoOrlando-North.com—is getting a makeover soon too. We also launched our YouTube channel this year." He shared that they will be adding even more content there soon—including a children's cartoon series that could come as early as Summer 2024.

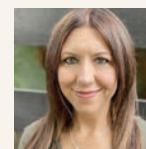
Big Things On The Horizon

There are a few things happening this year that could bring even more growth to the local tourism industry. Cunha says there are a couple of new hotels—a Comfort Inn near the airport, and a Home2 Suites by Hilton that is coming to Lake Mary. He also sees the conclusion of the Wekiva Parkway's construction as an opportunity for the area to bring in more visitors. "The Wekiva Parkway is

a main artery that is opening up a link between Osceola and Seminole counties. This gives us a big opportunity to grow our market share that is coming from the south and west." He also shared plans for a new multi-use indoor complex that could start construction as early as next summer.

Maintaining Balance and Staying Florida's Natural Choice

While Seminole County is working hard to promote the area to visitors, Cunha tells us that the county is very cognizant of avoiding over-tourism and development. "People love living in Seminole County, and we are always focused on maintaining a balance of growth and making sure that we don't change the quality of life for residents here. Seminole County is Florida's Natural Choice, and all of our discussions always come back to making sure we keep it that way." ■



Brandy is a Seminole county resident who has spent many years in the tourism and journalism industries. She also runs OutdoorTravelWriter.com.

THE 2024 MOOD BOARD



Amber Clore Morales, ASID

Imagine a living room bathed in emerald green, plush velvet furniture inviting you to sink in, and a woven rug in earthy tones grounding the space. This isn't just about aesthetics; it's about fostering a connection with nature's calming embrace, even within the four walls of your home. Think of it as a modern interpretation of a cozy cabin, where rich colors replace wood paneling and plush textures stand in for furs and hides. It's a trend that celebrates both sophistication and comfort, inviting you to unwind and reconnect with the natural world.

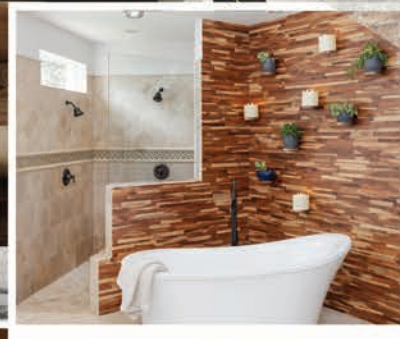
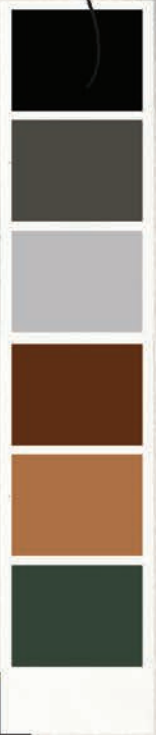
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6 Unique Venues to Say "I Do!" IN SANFORD

BY ALLISON VAN TILBORGH



Historic Venue 1902

Sanford is home to many unique wedding venues from the zoo to lakeside venues and themed restaurants too! Join us as we review six of our favorites.

Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Did you know that you can say "I Do!" at the Zoo? Choosing the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens provides an easily accessible and picturesque location with a unique blend of natural beauty and thoughtful amenities. Indoor and outdoor ceremony options, reception spaces, and the charm of private animal encounters create a magical backdrop for your wedding. With an experienced events team dedicated to ensuring a smooth and memorable experience, alongside exclusive catering services that cater to a wide range of culinary preferences, your wedding day is set to be as seamless as it is spectacular.

Historic Venue 1902

Venue 1902 at Preservation Hall, nestled in the breathtaking Historic District of Downtown Sanford, stands as a picturesque setting for weddings amidst century-old brick streets, verdant landscaping, and majestic oaks. This venue, once a schoolhouse, has been transformed into a sprawling 10,000-square-foot event space accommodating up to 175 guests. Venue 1902 distinguishes itself with meticulously restored interiors and offers a variety of settings, including both indoor and outdoor ceremony sites, cocktail areas with garden views, luxurious bridal suites, a grand ballroom, and unique spaces like the Lounge and the Library to make your event truly special.

520 on the Water

Let the lakeside winds enchant you at 520 on the Water, the sole waterfront wedding venue in Downtown Sanford. This venue, with its rustic allure, offers stunning views of Lake Monroe through expansive windows and a screened-in porch. A key benefit of selecting 520 on the Water is the complete flexibility it offers wedding planners. You have the freedom to choose your caterer, drinks menu, and other vendors independently of the venue's arrangements. Additionally, 520 on the Water supplies servers, bartenders, decorations, and linens to ensure that your event is beautifully catered. This venue prides itself on being family owned and operated, adding a personal touch to your special day.



Sanford Civic Center

Discover the charm of lakeside nuptials at the Sanford Civic Center, a gem located along the Lake Monroe RiverWalk. This venue boasts a prime lakefront setting, enveloped by a verdant courtyard complete with picnic areas and towering shade trees. Renowned as a hub for civic clubs, organizations, and a vibrant host of multicultural activities and entertainment, the Civic Center offers a picturesque and versatile backdrop for weddings. The facility is well appointed with a spacious stage, a comprehensive kitchen, an ice machine, and a modern sound system, catering to all your event needs. Whether you desire to rent the entire building, the main auditorium, or the annex, the Civic Center provides flexible rental options to accommodate your special day.

Hollerbach ÜberKeller

Hollerbach's ÜberKeller and Rooftop Biergarten presents a distinctive German-inspired venue for intimate weddings, accommodating up to 80 guests. This exclusive space not only offers access to the only full-service bar on the rooftop but also ensures affordability with no room fees, merely requiring minimums. With catering packages that range from traditional German dishes to accommodate all dietary needs, including gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options, it guarantees a unique culinary experience.

The ÜberKeller, part of Hollerbach's new restaurant, brings a chef-driven bistro ambiance with small-plate meals, craft cocktails, and German Fassbier, creating an ideal setting for those seeking a nontraditional yet authentic German experience for their special day.

Buster's Bistro

Buster's Bistro on Sanford Avenue offers a unique European-inspired setting for weddings and special events, blending tradition with contemporary flair. Since 2013, it has provided an ambiance unmatched in Sanford, with an extensive selection of the world's finest beers, top-quality food, and innovative cocktails. Owned by Robbie Kennerney, who brings a touch of Dublin's bar and restaurant scene to Sanford, Buster's is ideal for receptions and parties for a memorable experience. With a secluded beer garden and a commitment to community involvement, Buster's Bistro promises not just a venue, but an experience that blends culinary excellence with a lively, welcoming atmosphere for your wedding celebration.

Sanford has a plethora of unique and picturesque wedding venues, each offering a distinct experience from scenic lakeside settings to cultural richness, ensuring that every wedding is as memorable as the love story it celebrates. ■



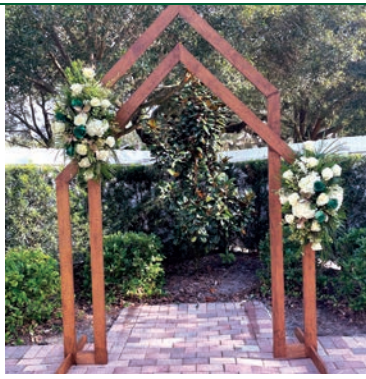
Allison van Tilborgh is an executive at Four Rivers Media, headquartered in Sanford, FL. She writes extensively on business, religion, and food through her writings on Medium, The Sanford Vegan, Inspire Magazine, AVAIL Journal, Thrive Today Journal, Historic Downtown Sanford, and My Sanford Magazine. She is the founder of The Sanford Vegan and Interfaith Now.



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TRUST, COMMITMENT, AND THE COMMON GOOD: THE BENTLEYS' STORY OF LOVE AND COMMUNITY

BY MARY BOZA CRIMMINS

UNEXPECTED BEGINNINGS

After her divorce, Dr. Barbara Kirby-Bentley focused on her young son, William, and her career. She had no desire to remarry. But God had other things in mind and put Kenneth Bentley in her path when the two worked at Hamilton Elementary and became friends.

One day, Kenneth knocked on her door to check on Barbara. Eventually, they began dating until the fateful Friday morning twelve years later when they decided to marry. Kenneth was overcome. "The lady said she's going to marry me today!" After calling Barbara's parents, arranging for William to be picked up at school, and purchasing 15 disposable cameras at Walgreens, the couple tied the knot.

UNLIMITED TRUST

Their 27-year marriage is built on trust and shared goals. Faith, family, and community are the driving forces behind their success as a couple and individually. Kenneth admits that he was drawn to Barbara because she was attractive and a go-getter: "I knew she was going somewhere." Barbara was drawn to his listening skills and caring attitude: "He was what I needed in my life."

Both are high achievers who have supported each other's mission. Barbara is a retired educator who served 53 years in Seminole County public schools as a teacher, principal, and instructional coach. She dedicated much of her career to at-risk youth and the emotionally disabled. She acknowledges that earning her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership was an achievement that they accomplished together. When her coursework often took her out of town, Kenneth encouraged her and cared for William.

As a civic leader, Kenneth is passionate about education and making a difference in the Sanford



Kenneth and Barbara Kirby-Bentley

community. He serves as the Chairman of the Historic Goldsboro Main Street, the second all-black incorporated township in the U.S. He is also co-chairman of the MLK Jr. Steering Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Sanford Orlando International Airport.

UNFAILING PLANS

Because of their commitment to a thriving community, time together is scarce. Yet they set aside time for their son, five grandchildren, and each other. In the evenings, they "sit up, talk, and laugh about what has happened during the day" and have a date night at least every two weeks.

Barbara and Kenneth also enjoy July as their "special time together." Part of their tradition in-

cludes a week in New York City to cheer on the Mets and the Yankees and enjoy "Amateur Night" at the Apollo Theater.

UNDISPUTED HARMONY

What advice does this dynamic couple have for a healthy marriage? Barbara's wisdom is, "Don't try to change people and trust that God put you together." She adds that mutual trust, respect, and quality time are vital. Kenneth seconds her remarks with an enthusiastic, "Ditto for me." ■



Mary Boza Crimmins, owner of Crimmins Communications, is a content writer, ghostwriter, and online course creator. She is also the author of *Taking the Holy Spirit to Work, which you can find on Amazon.*

COURTESY OF DR. BARBARA KIRBY-BENTLEY

ROOTED IN FAITH:

The 70-Year Story of All Souls Catholic School

BY KIMBERLY WALKER

All Souls Catholic School has served the Historic Downtown Sanford community for 70 years, providing students with a high-quality Catholic education rooted in faith, excellence, and service. As one of the oldest private schools in the area, All Souls has a rich history and continues to be a pillar of the Sanford community. The school has nurtured generations of students in an environment rooted in faith and academic rigor. Its graceful old buildings and shaded streets exude the charm of the school's long history, while the curriculum and facilities have kept pace with changing times. The school is accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, ensuring that the curriculum, faculty, and facilities meet the highest standards for Catholic education.

The dedicated teachers and staff work hard to carry on the All Souls tradition of shaping well-rounded students of strong moral character. Although the school maintains its Catholic identity, the student body reflects the diversity of the surrounding community. At All Souls, students are part of a diverse, inclusive community that embraces scholars from all backgrounds. The school celebrates its diversity and leverages it to provide students with a welcoming environment where they can grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially. Teachers work to nurture the whole child and empower students to use their talents to serve others with compassion. Located in the heart of Historic Downtown Sanford, the school aims to model the teachings of Christ by serving its local community. For 70 years, All Souls has lived out this mission of service, leadership, and compassion, educating generations of students to make a positive difference in Sanford and beyond. The school looks forward to building on this legacy for decades to come.



All Souls Catholic School, then (left) and now (above)

milestone, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to those who have set the path for success of Catholic education in Sanford, from the dedicated educators and supportive families to the generous benefactors. Your unwavering commitment continues to impact Catholic education and countless families.

In looking toward the future, I pray we remain steadfast in our devotion to academic excellence and service as we help shape the future leaders that will make a difference in our Sanford community and beyond."

—Mrs. Barbara Schirard, Principal

"As I reflect on the profound impact of 70 years of Catholic education, I am reminded of the privilege those of us at All Souls have had in shaping the hearts, minds, and spirits of generations of students. For seven decades, not only has our school provided an environment of academic excellence but has been a place where lifelong friendships are forged, values are instilled, and futures are built upon a solid foundation of love and compassion. Pondering this incredible



Kimberly is a lifelong resident of Seminole County. She is the Operations Administrator for the Seminole County Property Appraiser's Office. She holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Central Florida.

Kimberly is involved in the community through numerous Seminole County organizations. Her dedication to service recently earned her the Sanford Rotary Club's Rookie of the Year award and Habitat for Humanity's Most Spirited award.

A LA CARTA FASHION SHOW 2024

“A la Carta Fashion Show 2024”, presentó una noche de esplendor en Winter Park con diseñadores del más alto nivel que hicieron vibrar al público en general.

Los espectaculares y elegantes diseños de José Raúl de Puerto Rico y de los dominicanos Eddy Rambaldy y Giannina Azar, se convirtieron en los reyes de la noche, en un concepto innovador y único en su clase.

Su creadora, la empresaria y fashionista Penélope Ventura, junto a un equipo experimentado en el tema, dejaron huellas y experiencias únicas para su público.



I-r: Nelly Guzmán, Penelope Ventura, CEO, A la Carta Fashion Show; and Anthony Alvarez



Diseño Eddy Rambaldy

Visuals By Malone



Center Left: Eddy Rambaldy



Diseño Giannina Azar



Diseño José Raúl



Diseño Giannina Azar



Center: José Raúl

En su cuarta temporada, se mantuvo su esencia donde cada diseñador, desde la elegancia cautivadora hasta la audacia creativa, expuso su talento sin presión de tendencias, temporadas ni estereotipos.

Contaron con invitados internacionales como el cantante y actor Anthony Alvarez, la actriz y exreina de belleza Nelly Guzmán, el cantante Alesi, el maquillista internacional Alle Paredes, Bianca Caraballo, Miss Earth Puerto Rico y Ediris Joan Miss Global Puerto Rico, entre otros.

Florida Technical College, tuvo a su cargo el maquillaje de todas la modelos participantes y Melao Bakery el catering del personal.

La producción de A La Carta Fashion Show 2024 contó con el apoyo de las agencias PG Media Publishing que dirige Gheidy de la Cruz y de Yes Business Development & Multimedia que dirige Yesenia Toribio.

El año pasado "A la Carta Fashion Show", fue un éxito rotundo en el majestuoso y exclusivo Museo de Arte de la ciudad de Orlando, siendo el primer Fashion show latino que se presenta en ese lugar, logrando reunir a grandes diseñadores de América Latina y el Caribe, como Giannina Azar, famosa entre las celebridades, Leonel Lirio que ha sido el único Dominicano premiado dos veces en el certamen Miss Universe, la diseñadora de las novias Elizabeth Muñoz.

Posterior a ello, el diseñador Carlos Alberto, reconocido a nivel internacional por haber vestido a famosas reinas, entre ellas Miss Universe de Puerto Rico Zuleika Rivera, fue parte de la pasarela que trajo diseñadores desde Italia, Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, entre otros. ■

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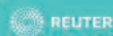


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